



AZ. Auto Theft Authority News & Updates April 2010

In the News -

AZ. Auto Theft Task Force Raids Business Operating as a Chop Shop in Yuma; Detectives Recover Two Stolen Motorcycles Among Other Stolen Parts.

On Thursday March 4, 2010, members of the AZ. Auto Theft Task Force, DPS' State Gang Task Force (GIITEM), Yuma Police Department and the National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB), conducted an inspection at "1% Choppers" located at 2786 E. Hwy. 95 in Yuma, Ariz. The purpose of the inspection was to enforce the state statute of ARS 28-4846 for locating stolen vehicles or parts of those vehicles. Information was obtained that motorcycles were possibly being chopped with the parts being sold at a swap meet in California. During the inspection, several stolen parts were located. DPS Investigators obtained a search warrant which was later served on the business and resulted in the seizure of two complete motorcycles, multiple bike frames, two engine cases, and one engine which had all been reported stolen out of various cities to include Yuma, Mesa, and Las Vegas, Nev. The owner, Robert Alan Hagan, 56, of Las Vegas, Nev., was booked into the Yuma County Jail for operating a chop shop. Hagan is a member of, 'The Sons of Hell', a motorcycle club in the Yuma area.

Smugglers Scour Parking Lots Near Interstate 10 for SUV's, Trucks.

(Excerpts from The Arizona Republic's, Megan Boehnke - Mar. 27, 2010 07:25 AM)

Valley police agencies continue to fight the theft of large trucks and SUVs from big parking lots along Interstate 10; problem linked to the violent drug cartels in Mexico. Agencies have been working in partnership with the State's Auto Theft Task Force to track trends and intelligence about the networks stealing the cars.

The process works like this: A bigwig involved in cartels in Mexico calls local thieves and gives them an order for vehicles. The local criminals swipe the trucks - typically Ford F-Series pickups, Chevy Silverados or Dodge Rams - and leave them at drop points along the interstate.

Then, Mexican nationals pick up the trucks and drive them across the border.

Once in Mexico, the trucks are modified and then used to smuggle narcotics or people into the United States.

After a cartel's operatives smuggle the drugs or people past the border, they will again meet up with thieves who then drive the cars and trucks back to Mexico. There, the vehicles are retrofitted to once again smuggle drugs and people back across the border.

Officials report the problem has been on-going across the Valley and along interstate corridors for the past few years. To make your vehicle a tough target: •Use visible and audible anti-theft devices• Steering wheel or brake locks, •Window VIN etching• Kill switches or fuse cutoffs, •Smart keys• Vehicle-tracking devices.

Upcoming April Events -

Saturday, April 3, 2010 - 10am - 2pm.

Glendale Police Department & Cabela's Spring Safety Fair

Cabela's - 9380 W. Glendale Avenue

Glendale Fire Dept, Auto Theft Prevention, Personal & Home Safety, Gun Safety, Water Safety, American Red Cross. Also a visit by McGruff, the Crime Prevention Dog.

Saturday, April 10, 2010 - 9am - 11am

ACPA Document & Cell Phone Shred-A-Thon

Premiere Document Shred - 2250 W. Broadway, #104 - Mesa, AZ.

Sponsored by Arizona Crime Prevention Association

Saturday, April 24, 2010 - 9am - 12pm

City of Scottsdale Public Safety Fair with **FREE VIN Etching**

Coronado High School - 2400 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale, AZ.

Also offering FREE child car seat safety checks, document shredding, child fingerprinting, prescription drug collection/destruction.



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